



# MARYLAND TAMS JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY, INC.

## 2021 SPECIAL COVID ISSUE

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9323 Waltham Woods Road

Baltimore, Maryland 21234-1550

410-668-8538 marysears@comcast.net

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Stay safe  
Stay Healthy  
Keep busy

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**REGULAR:** Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and of good moral character.

**JUNIOR:** Applicants must be from 10 to 18 years of age and of good moral character. A parent or guardian MUST sign application.

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Interested clubs, societies, museums, research groups, etc., may apply for membership.

**DUES:** Dues for Regular, Junior and Organizational membership are \$15.00 per year. Life membership \$300.00

#### **MD TAMS MAILING ADDRESS**

Maryland Token and Medal Society  
PO Box 3273

MD TAMS JOURNAL is published four times a year by the Maryland Token and Medal Society, Inc. Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor. Opinions expressed by the author are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the MD TAMS, its Editor or its Officers. MD TAMS JOURNAL reserves the right to edit or reject any copy. Meetings are held in various coin shows and conventions throughout the year. Swap meets are also held by the club. See information on future meetings elsewhere in this issue.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems hard to believe but this is the second year that we are still living with the COVID pandemic. Granted, things are much better in 2021 but I am sure that you agree that it is getting old for sure. Our lives have changed so much and we have been drastically impacted by this lethal virus. In many ways we can do nothing about it except to get vaccinated and follow all the health guidelines. Our social and hobby lives are changed tremendously. The Maryland Token and Medal Society is trying to put a little normalcy into our hobby lives. That is the least we can do until we get a chance to meet again. I am hoping that our next meeting will happen in November at the Whitman Coin Show. In the meantime, your Journal Editor, Jane Sears and I have decided to do a fifth issue of the journal for 2021. The extra journal will be our second COVID-19 issue and hopefully the last.

As soon as we are allowed to meet at Grace United Methodist Church again, we will schedule another Swap Meet to allow our members some special time to talk about, trade, buy and sell some of our Maryland exnumia. I always find these sessions to be informative and rewarding. I hope that you agree and will join us as soon as we can re-energize these meetings.

Speaking of meetings in general, I am very disappointed in our pre-COVID meeting attendance at the Whitman shows. Hopefully, post-COVID we will all be yearning for hobby interactions if for no other reason than to shake the COVID blues. Remember, this is YOUR organization. You need to support it if you want it to be around for our future hobby needs.

Please be cautious, get your vaccination and join us, hopefully soon at a MD TAMS meeting. Stay safe and healthy.

Ed Craig, president

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## FROM YOUR EDITOR

*Hello Fellow Members*

*Hoping you older members have at least received one of your shots if not both.*

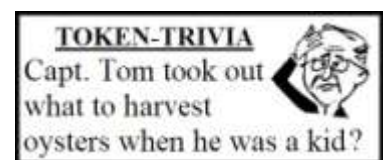
*Thanks to medical science that we have this break though. But, did you think that instead of a shot in the arm we might of had it in the BUTT! Can you image all those lines of individuals in stadiums and conventions centers dropping their drawers. Out of nowhere you would*

*hear Ray Charles singing "Moon over Miami".*

*The end is near if we do what we are told to do - keep our distance and wear our mask. This journal will keep you interested in our hobby while we are down in and away from other collectors.*

*Hopefully we will have our November meeting. Keep safe.*

*Jane*



Answer page 9

## HENRY RIDGON'S CANNERY AT ROCKS, MARYLAND

Bernie Bodt, R-282

Henry Ridgon canned in Rocks, Maryland from 1937 to 1950. In 1951 his son George joined him, and they continued to can together through 1959. During this period, they exclusively canned tomatoes. Although today this area is still referred to as Rocks, the post office was closed in 1968 and incorporated into the Jarrettsville zone.

Below is a copy of the only label known to directly exist for the Ridgon operation.



Much of their product was offered under "private label pack" and labeled as Red Cross Brand in Havre de Grace, MD; Lucky Brand in Baltimore, MD; Sultana Brand in New York, NY; and Harris Park Brand in Harrisburg, PA.

Below are tokens from this operation:

H. R. / 1 BKT  
(blank)

brass 22mm



H. R.  
(blank)

brass, octagon, 28mm



H. R. / 1.00  
(blank)

brass, square, 29mm



H. R. / TOM  
(blank)

brass, square, 21mm





# WEBSTER, FORD & COMPANY

by Jane Sears LM12

obv: W. F. & CO. / 1

rev: blank

round brass 21mm (variety #1 with a long 1)

also available: variety #2 with a short 1



The business of Webster, Ford and Company was began by Captain Thomas B. Webster (1853-1924), Emory Vaughan Webster (his brother 1857-1924) and Captain Edwin H. Ford (1852-1915). In 1880, the Maryland census for Deal's Island listed Capt. Thomas and his 3 brothers as captains of their own vessels. As a young boy Capt. Tom would go out in his small canoe to the oyster beds off of Deal's Island in Somerset County and harvest 30 bushels of oysters on each trip.

The company was located at 338 Aliceanna Street in 1884 until 1904. Then their office and wharf was located at 2301 Boston Street in Baltimore until 1914. Capt. Tom owned 75% of the oyster boat fleet that was over 300 vessels. These vessels pulled between 1,250,000 to 2,500,00 bushels annually during the season. Oysters were brought to the Webster, Ford & Co's Retail Oysters Wharf at the foot of Leakin St.

The trade mark for the vegetables was "United" and for tomatoes "#7552 Uncle Sam brand". The tomatoes were packaged as Extra selected-hand packed for family trade in 31 to 32 ozs cans. For family trade tomatoes solids were in 11.6 ozs cans marked as misbranded. I haven't found the trade mark for the oysters yet. In the spring months of April, May and June pineapples from the Bahamas were brought in to the company's Pratt Street wharf.

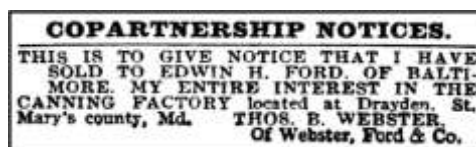
Webster, Ford and Company was listed as oyster commission merchants and ship chandlers in Baltimore. Capt. Tom was recognized as the Magnate of Maryland's tongers, scrapers & dredgers. He was in constant contact with his workers in what they needed and what was required for their daily work operation. He was president of the Oystermen's Protective Association and even worked on an oyster union.

In 1907, Capt. Thom sold to his partner Edwin H. Ford his interest in the canning factory located a Drayden, St. Mary's Co., Md.

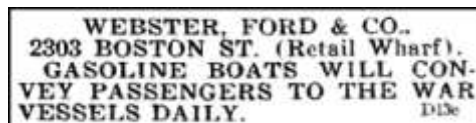
## Magnate Of Maryland Oyster Trade



Capt. Thomas B. Webster



August 28, 1907



December 13, 1918

If you wish to see the variety #2 go to Worthpoint Auction.

<https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/webster-ford-co-baltimore-oyster-3758317582>

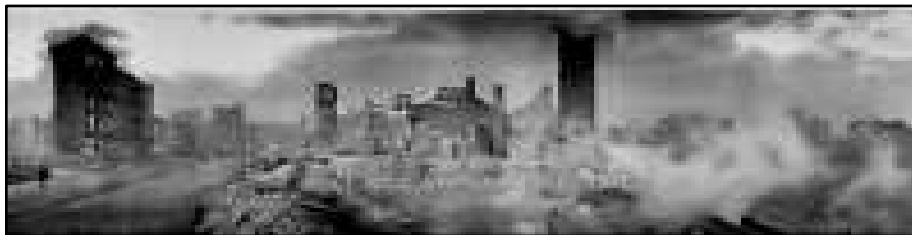
# BALTIMORE JUBILEE

By Jane Sears LM12

The Greater Baltimore Jubilee and Exposition was held on September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1906. It also ran at the same time with the Baltimore Home Coming Week. It was Baltimore's way of celebrating the recovery of the city after the great fire of February 7 & 8 1904. The fire burned down 140 acres of downtown Baltimore with more than 1,500 buildings completely destroyed and some 1,000 were severely damaged. Property loss estimated over \$100 million. The fire started at the John E. Hurst building on the southwest corner of Hopkins Place and German Street (now Redwood Street). For the celebration building fronts were decorated with bunting, flags, and banners. The some buildings were also illuminated. Scheduled events were planned for the week. Visitors would see the unbelievable results of the reconstruction. Baltimore actually rising from the ashes of the destruction that occurred that time.



City Hall illuminated



"Burnt out District"



## THE PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR JUBILEE WEEK

SEPT 11 1906 TUESDAY

### **MILITARY PARADE 3 PM**

A parade with 6,000 men passed the City Hall and was reviewed by Governor Warfield. A banquet was held at the Hotel Belvedere at 7 PM. The cruiser "Newark" arrived on the 6<sup>th</sup> and was birthed at Canton Hollow joining the USS Apache (my grandfather was stationed on that ship in 1925). The ships were decorated and illuminated at night. Visitors were visiting the ships for tours. The downtown section of the city was illuminated and also bands were playing at different locations.



U.S.S. Apache

SEPT 12 1906 WEDNESDAY

### **INDUSTRIAL PARADE 10 AM**

Over 100 FLOATS were in the parade (listed below just a few)

- B & O (5,000 men)
- Newark Shoe, Save A Dollar.
- The Knabe & Co (9 floats)
- Maryland Belting Co
- Bridell Transfer Co
- G B S Brewing Co
- Coca Cola Co
- Bietric Bros
- Milton T Lucy
- A C Dietrich
- Lauer & Harper Co.



Wm. C. Dorsey float

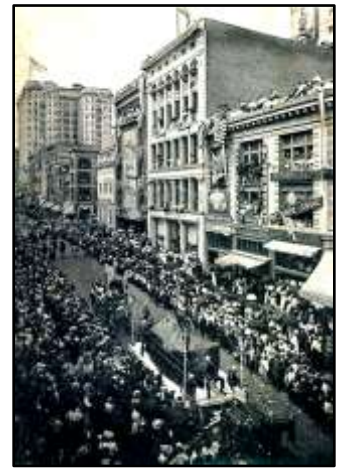
Wm. C. Dorsey (from forest to finished product) notice small float (a log)  
 THE IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN (250 men mounted and dressed in Indian garb) Floats with manufacturing interests were paraded together with fraternal, singing societies and other associations.

A Tournament for the benefit of the Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers' Home was held at Pikesville.

German Day was celebrated at River View Park by the Independent Citizens' Union of Maryland with a picnic, sports and fireworks in the evening was scheduled.

The Junior Order of United American Mechanics held its annual outing at Gwynn Oak Park.

Municipal Games was held at Patterson Park.



#### SEPT 13 1906 THURSDAY

##### **FIREMEN'S PARADE 2 PM**

The parade of the local fire departments and outside fire companies which helped fight the great fire of 1904 was invited to join in the parade. Over 1,400 individuals attended plus there fire apparatus. Visitors could visit "**Fighting the Flames**" at the Electric Park (a show that was scheduled twice each night) Electric Park had a capacity of 3,000 in the grand stands.

#### SEPT 14 1906 FRIDAY

##### **AUTOMOBILE AND BICYCLE PARADE**

St. Johns's Athletic Club  
 Patterson Outing Club with German band  
 Baltimore Bargain Co employee in wagons  
 St. Paul's Athletic Assoc.  
 The Barrie Socials  
 Druid Oak Bicycle Club  
 Maryland Pleasure Club  
 Humpty Dumpty Pleasure Club  
 Harlem Athletic Club  
 Maple Leaf Socials  
 Caswell Baseball Club  
 Columbia Athletic Club  
 Knights of the Golden Eagle  
 Chester Pleasure Club

The Bicycle parade had 250 bicycles entered and they were judged for the best decorated. The winner was awarded a prize.

A carnival was held at night on downtown streets. The police prohibited the throwing of confetti.



#### SEPT 15 1906 SATURDAY

Visitors were encouraged to visit the city sights.

**I added this scheduled program but it started the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>.  
 (It was not part of the Jubilee)**

#### SEPT 9 1906 SUNDAY

Thousands attended the Home Product Exposition at Electric Park.

The police would be busy controlling crowds and pickpockets. Ticket Scalpers were being watched for B & O ticket fixing. Concerts were held each evening by 2 bands at McLane Place and City Hall.

The United Railways and Electric Company scheduled special routes and times for the parade route.

Brager's stores was handing out free portfolio of the views of Baltimore store on Monday and at the parade they were handing out other items from their float. Other stores closed on Wednesday to allow their employees to attend the parades.

Baltimore weather temperatures reached as high as 94° during the day with early morning starting at 80°. A typical Baltimore summer.





# SOUVENIR MEDAL

## BAR with pin

BALTIMORE, MD. (With a border design)

41mm x 14mm

## RIBBON

OFFICIAL / SOUVENIR

33mm x 43mm gold and black with gold

letters (MD colors)

Ribbon length 1 ½"

## MEDAL

Obv: CITY OF BALTIMORE / (BATTLE  
MONUMENT IN CENTER) /  
INCORPORATED 1797

Rev: BALTIMORE FIRE FEB. 7. 8. 9. 1904. /  
(PHOENIX) / JUBILEE / SEPTEMBER /  
9<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> / 1906

At bottom - J. ARTHUR LIMERICK 21.  
N. LIBERTY ST. BALTIMORE



Dark medal – 32mm round

Total Length – 3 ½"

The obverse of the medal is also used on the 1904 Baltimore Fire medal and the 1907 Old Home Week medal.

I used the Baltimore Sun newspaper and Postcards for article

thanks Ed for proofing



# Hilltop Cafe

by Jane Sears LM12



obverse

reverse



whittened to see letters

obv: HILLTOP CAFÉ / 5 c / IN TRADE (incuse)

rev: blank

round brass 29mm **UNLISTED**

thanks Ed & Rich

.....  
Bernard Joseph Mory (father) and Bernard E. Mory (son) ran their HILLTOP CAFÉ on 2501 Washington Blvd. from 1940 to 1961. Father and son sold wine and liquor in a restaurant bar atmosphere. They tried selling the tavern in 1942 but it continued

TAVERN—All licenses, stock, 6-day Beer,  
Wine & Liquor License, house with 9  
rms., 3 baths, oil heat, 1st. fl. has bar,  
kitchen & large rm. suitable dining rm.  
So. 1183. 1701 Hanover st.

July 4, 1942

The following article was originally printed in the April 2021 issue of Talkin' Tokens, the newsletter of the National Token Collectors Association (NTCA). The article was written by Tony Chibbaro, the NTCA President and is reprinted with his permission. The subject is about a Maryland oyster token and should be of interest to MD TAMS members. Thanks Tony !! -- Ed Craig

## What Is A Token?

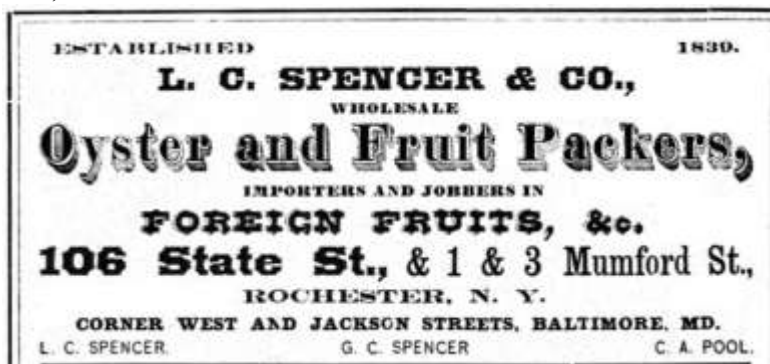
by Tony Chibbar

Work tally token issued by L.C. Spencer & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. German-silver alloy, 20mm. This token was disbursed to workers at the company's cannery when a gallon of oysters had been shucked. The tokens were taken up at the end of the work day and pay was calculated according to how many had been accumulated by each worker.



Pictured above is the only token I have ever encountered that features an illustration of an oyster. Issued by L. C. Spencer & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland in the late 1860s or early 1870s, the piece was utilized as a work tally at the cannery operated by the company near the Fells Point section of the city. I was able to find the company's name in city directories there for a period of eleven years, from 1863 through 1873. The firm may have been in operation earlier than 1863, but that is the first year that I had access to online. Directory listings indicated that the firm was engaged in the canning of oysters and fruit, oysters being shucked and packed during the winter months, with fruit being the focus during the remainder of the year. During the 1860s the cannery was located along Aliceanna Street near Fells Point. From 1871 to 1873, the company's address was shown as the intersection of Jackson & West Streets, in Baltimore's Federal Hill area.

It is interesting to note that the primary owner of the company did not live in Baltimore at all. Luther Calvin Spencer was born in 1815 in the town of Schuyler, New York. He lived most, if not all, of his adult life in nearby Rochester and was enumerated there in business directories as early as 1851. In that year he was shown as one of the proprietors of the Empire Saloon. Another directory listing in 1861 identifies him as an oyster dealer and a quarter-page ad in the same edition proclaimed that L.C. Spencer & Company was engaged in selling "shell, can, keg, and count oysters" of the "Fair Haven, Virginia, Baltimore, York Bay, and Amboy" varieties. The firm also dealt in foreign and domestic fruits, cigars, and pickled food stuffs. A later ad, which appeared in the 1873 city directory (see below), noted that the firm was established in 1839, but I could find no record of it before 1861. That ad also mentioned the location of the cannery in Baltimore and Spencer's two business partners - his son, George C. Spencer, and a man named C.A. Pool. The firm went out of business by the following year, as it was not listed in the Rochester, NY or the Baltimore, MD city directories of 1874 or any subsequent editions. However, a short-lived successor firm, S.C. Spencer & Co., was listed in Rochester as importers and jobbers in brandies, gins, wines, and whiskies in 1875. It is unknown whether L.C. Spencer was actively involved with this firm. He continued to be listed in city directories for some 10 years or so but had no occupation cited. Further research revealed that Spencer died in 1885 and was buried in Rochester, New York.



Advertisement of L.C. Spencer & Co. published in the 1873 Rochester, NY city directory. Note the location of the cannery in Baltimore, Maryland.



Reprinted from "Talkin' Tokens," the monthly newsletter of the National Token Collectors Association. For information on joining NTCA, please visit [www.tokencollectors.org](http://www.tokencollectors.org) or contact John Ostendorf at NTCA Secretary, 523 Waxahachie, TX 75165 or [johnoste64@gmail.com](mailto:johnoste64@gmail.com)



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** List of the 4 shucking tokens that were from L. C. Spencer & Co.  
Images are from my book "Baltimore's Packing & Canning Industry" page 64



24 mm nickel



24 mm brass



19 mm zinc



19 mm nickel

**On October 16, 1862**, a fire destroyed the L. C. Spencer & Co. oyster packing house at Aliceanna St. & Castle alley. The fire originated in the rear of the building occupied by F. J. Ruth. (oyster packer)

**DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.**—The partnership heretofore existing under the name and style of SPENCER, AUGER & CO. is this day mutually DISSOLVED. All those indebted to the Baltimore house will please make immediate payment to L. C. SPENCER, at Rochester, N. Y., or his authorized agent in Baltimore.  
L. C. SPENCER,  
J. P. AUGER,  
H. S. LANFAIR,  
R. WILSON.  
Baltimore, May 13, 1869. m13-St\*4

Baltimore Sun, May 15, 1869 = Dissolution of Spencer, Auger & Co.



19 mm black hard rubber

**On Sept. 15, 1874** an advertisement in a NY paper listed R. N. Warfield & Co. took over the L. C. Spencer & Co. in New York.



Also listed in the Numismatist 1907 "the Merchants' Cards and Tokens of Baltimore" by F. G. Duffield # 138 & 139 as nickel

1995 MD TAMS Journal - Vol XVI, No.1, whole No. 63, p13 "L. C. Spencer & Co. and Spencer, Auger & Co" by Russ Sears  
Both can be seen at Newman Portal website: <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/513570>



Token -Trivia Answer

# JENNIE SCHULER

by Jane Sears LM12



obverse



reverse

obv: JENNIE / SCHULER / 3537 / E. / FAIRMOUNT. AVE.

rev: GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN MERCHANDISE / THE OSBORNE REGISTER CO. CIN.O.

round brass 21mm UNLISTED

thanks Ed & Rich

Jane Rita (Dorsch) Schuler & her husband owned and operated their saloon at 3437 E. Fairmount Ave. during the 1940's. The building measured 25.7 x 70 feet. She was born in 1910 and died in Huntingtown, Md. in 2013 at the age of 103 years. She is buried at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery in Dundalk. The information in the cemetery states that her and her husband owned and operated Schuler's Café on Conklin St. for many years.



I want to inform the Maryland Token and Medal Society membership that our Secretary, Bryce Doxzon informed the organization that he will need to step down from that position which he has admirably and effectively held for a while now. He has done a truly outstanding job and we are very appreciative of the time and effort that he has devoted to MD TAMS in this capacity.

A while back, Bryce informed a few of us that he had been diagnosed with ALS (aka Lou Gehrig's Disease). He has had major motor diminishment in his left hand and arm, but recent right hand and arm problems have led him to resign as Secretary. We fully understand this decision and are tremendously thankful to him for all his past support as our Secretary.

MD TAMS certainly wishes Bryce the best as he continues to undergo treatment and we sincerely hope that his doctors can significantly slow the disease's progress. We hope too that Bryce will continue to participate in our meetings and Swap Meets. I personally have him in my daily prayers and ask that all of our membership do the same. Bryce is one of the constant pillars of MD TAMS and our thoughts and support are with him.

Bryce needs to vacate his position ASAP and has agreed to help transition to his replacement. I am asking any MD TAMS member who feels like they can contribute to our organization by becoming our next Secretary to contact me ASAP. Please give this serious thought. We need your help.



From our membership